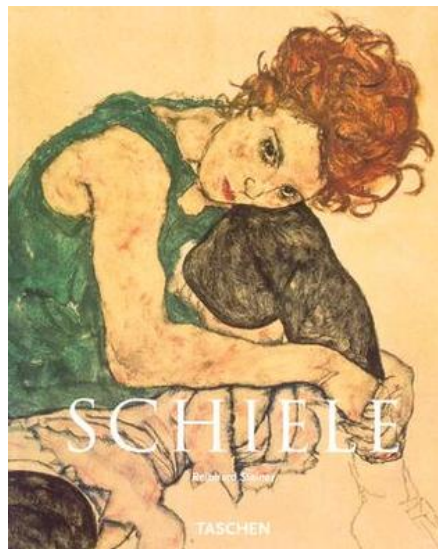




Egon Schiele, 1890-1918: The Midnight Soul of the Artist

Reinhard Steiner

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Egon Schiele (1890-1918) - along with Oskar Kokoschka - is the painter who had the most long-lasting influence on the Vienna art scene after the great era of Klimt came to a close. After a short flirtation with Klimt's style, Schiele soon questioned the aesthetic orientation to the beautiful surface of the Viennese Art Nouveau with his rough and not easily accessible paintings. Many contemporaries found his expressive nudes and self-portraits, with their strange movements and morbid colours, to be ugly and even morally objectionable - criticism which culminated in criminalizing the painter as "obscene" and resulted in 1912 in an indictment and short jail sentence. However, not even his harshest critics could dispute however the artist's extraordinary drawing talent.

Egon Schiele, 1890-1918: The Midnight Soul of the Artist Details

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From Reader Review Egon Schiele, 1890-1918: The Midnight Soul of the Artist for online ebook

Deborah Pickstone says

Taschen biography and review of Schiele's life and painting. There seems to be little in the way of biography of this outstanding painter who died tragically young in the 1918 Influenza epidemic. He was truly a genius and a favourite of mine.

Rene Ijzermans says

Schiele, al sinds jaar en dag mijn favoriete schilder. Dus waarom niet eens iets over hem lezen en meer van zijn werk bekijken? Nu weet het weer. Allereerst omdat boeken over kunst over het algemeen vanwege het abstracte taalgebruik voor een betrekkelijke buitenstaander niet te pruimen zijn en ook omdat de kennis over het leven van een kunstenaar voor mij vaak de glans van het werk wegneemt, en beide wens ik mezelf niet toe.

Maar Schiele brandde al langer en ik gaf eraan toe om meer over de persoon te weten te komen. Want wie is die man van de verminkende portretten, van de zwaar aangezette, misvormde en soms verkrampde figuren? Ze spreken me al heel lang aan.

Maar dan lees je over hem, in een soms beroerde vertaling, en kom je er achter dat Schiele een irritante narcistische man was, soms zonder gevoel voor de ander lijkt het, in ieder geval vooral uit op zelfgewin en glorie van zichzelf. Dat alles had ik liever niet geweten. Het bezoedelt mijn blik op zijn werk nu een beetje, al weet ik ook dat menig kunstenaar vooral vol is van zichzelf, waar Schiele dus niet voor onder doet. Het lijkt soms wel dat je als kunstenaar de onhebbelijke eigenschap van een te groot ego moet bezitten wil je "er komen".

Branda says

Eu não gostei do texto, não o achei prazeroso de ler e foi difícil me manter focada nele. No entanto, a arte é incrível. Minha nota se baseia somente no texto. Eu prefiro a narrativa dos outros títulos desta coleção.

I disliked the text, it wasn't pleasant to read and I struggled to keep focused on it. The art, however, is amazing. My rating is solely based on the text. I enjoy the narrative of the other books in this collection better.

Mii says

Great book! Pulled me in!

Bjeans says

I'm going to resist listing all of the Egon Schiele Books I've read because really, the guy died at 28, there isn't too much to report about his career. All the books pretty much say the same thing. However, what little they have is enough to prove this guy was beyond his contemporaries. Excellent draftsman, superb eye for form (from a new perspective at that time period), his art is evocative and risqué. He lived 100 years ago and his art can still pass as modern as well as his hair style...no joke, check him out.

M Duncan says

Offers an extremely well composed insight into Schiele's personality and his stylistic development. For the most part it doesn't get carried away with obscure art theories. Very informative, I would recommend it to anyone with an interest in Schiele's life and work.

AC says

The text is turgid, and I had no interest in reading it. The pictures are wonderful, and include many that I had never seen and which are not (apparently) very commonly discussed. This one, in particular, Child with Nimbus in a Meadow of Flowers (1909).... reminds me of Hiroshima

Kind mit Nimbus auf einer Blumenwiese, 1909

Colin N. says

Schiele's art had recently come to my attention through a few cosmic coincidences. First I read Llosa's "The Notebooks of Don Rigoberto" which predominately features Schiele's life and works, then I realized he was one of my sister's favorite artists, and so spent time looking at a book of his drawings, and finally I saw a few of his paintings in-person at the Neue Gallery in NYC. So, finding his life and art fascinating, I decided to pick up this book.

The book contains a number of excellent reproductions of Schiele's art, spanning his lifetime, and including his drawings, paintings, and landscapes. Steiner's writing is excellent and he provides a good mix of biographical information and analysis of the artwork. It is a quick read (you can finish it in a few hours) and then ponder the art with the new knowledge gained from the work. There are other books that better exhibit Schiele's art, through larger and more frequent pictures, but this book serves as a good introduction to his work. I was looking for a book that explored his life and art, had great pictures, covered his entire career, and was inexpensive and this book meets all of those qualifications.

My only criticism would be that sometimes Steiner discusses other authors and artists that may have influenced Schiele's work without offering any proof that they did so. But to be fair he admits when there is no direct evidence of such an influence and I guess conjecture is half the fun of art historians' research, so this is a minor quibble. Also I don't necessarily agree with all of his interpretations of the art, but his arguments are well-articulated and interesting, even if I do not agree.

A nice analysis of Schiele's life and art with a good offering of pictures.

G tyler says

This book inspired me to teach a class on art to elementary students. The class was so controversial I was asked to never come back. Mission accomplished! It was the first time these kids paid any attention in an artclass ,Egon Schiele's art does that in all of us. Bravo.
Egon Makes Ugly into utter beauty!

Ruby says

Well. I like Egon Schiele very very very much, but that doesn't necessarily makes this book great. I thought it was overly difficult, it went all over the place at times. I felt like the author got slightly sidetracked at times. What I don't really understand about the Taschen books in general: why put the paintings that you talk about not on the same page? And also: why include paintings you don't talk about and *not* include those that are discussed? But Schiele's paintings are interesting, a lot of the information was new to me and the layout of the book was gorgeous.

Charlie says

The author seemed to lose himself in overwordy sentences about aspects of society that barely had anything to do with Schiele in the first place. Despite that it is always interesting to read someone elses thoughts about your favourite artist, so it remained an overall pleasing read. I didn't learn many new thing, but perhaps because I have read so much about him already.

The book has gorgeous reproductions of course, and the edition is lovely although if I were to purchase it myself I would get a harcover. My copy which is from my local library (so god know how old it is and how many hands it has had on it) is starting to lose it's pages..

Bonny says

I would like to give a higher rating to this, but the writing was simply too dry and disjointed. I have to admit I began to skim the text, which I hardly ever do! I love Schiele's artwork, and that is the ultimate saving grace to this book!

Momo García says

Schiele, mi amorsh. Lástima que esta monografía sea tan pequeña. Aun así, vale su precio por las reproducciones que trae y por el texto que las acompaña. Buena introducción para quienes sólo conocíamos poco del buen Egon.

Fugado De La Casita says

Nice overview of the work of Schiele. It keeps you reading and makes you feel like visiting his museum.

Erin says

that ES is a genius along with my favorite artiste!
